

Lakes & Waterways Commission

1/10/17

City of Amesbury

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LAKE
GARDNER
BEACH
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

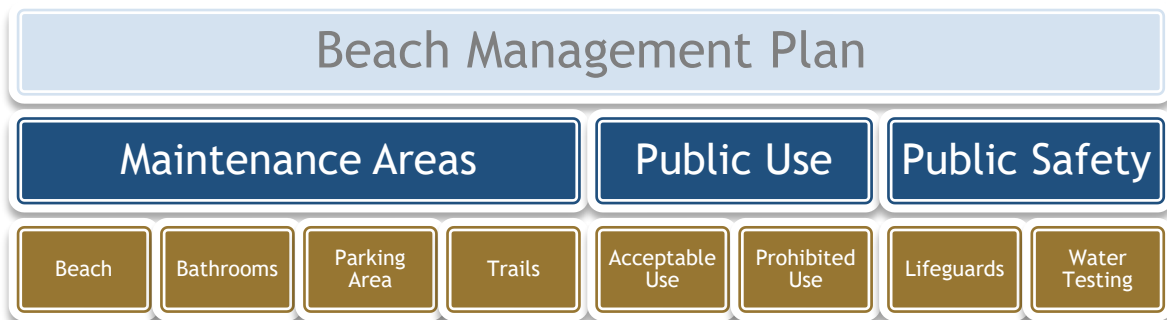
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Summary

A management plan seeks to establish appropriate public policy pertaining to the operation, maintenance and preservation of Lake Gardner Beach including facilities and adjacent recreational areas. Through these recommendations and guidelines, the City can conduct sustainable recreation planning, facility improvements and maintenance activities.

Lakes & Waterways Commission creates this plan with input from stakeholders. The City is responsible for seeing that the plan is implemented, evaluating its effectiveness, and revising and renewing the plan when necessary.

The scope of the plan is summarized below:



Plan Purpose

This plan establishes policy for the operation, maintenance and preservation of Lake Gardner Beach including facilities, recreation and resource areas.

By establishing recommendations and guidelines for beach resource protection through appropriate management practices, the management plan establishes a framework that the City can use to conduct sustainable recreation planning, facility improvements, conservation efforts, and maintenance activities. Recommendations & guidelines presented in the plan will be adopted under an Order of Conditions.

Plan Scope

Areas covered under this plan include:

- Maintenance Areas
 - Beach Management
 - Erosion control
 - Sand nourishment
 - Regular raking of beach
 - Regular mowing and landscaping
 - Trash Removal
 - Signage
 - Bathrooms
 - Schedule of operation
 - Cleaning schedule
 - Maintenance schedule
 - Parking Area and Driveway
 - Pavement and parking area maintenance
 - Trails
 - Trail clearing
 - Installation and maintenance of signage
- Rules for Public Use
 - Acceptable Recreational Uses
 - Beach
 - Trails
 - Fishing
 - Prohibited Uses
 - Restricted Uses
- Safety^[1]_{SEP}
 - Lifeguards
 - Water Testing
 - Security
- Wildlife and Endangered Species Management and Conservation
- Improvement Recommendations and Goals
- Public Outreach & Education

Plan Implementation and Approval

Stakeholders Providing Input for Plan

The following stakeholders are being consulted for input into this plan:

Stakeholder	Interest
Department of Public Works	Maintenance, Approval of plan
Conservation Commission	Approval of plan
Mayor's Office	Approval of plan
Director of Youth Services	Lifeguards/Swimming lessons
Public Safety (Police and Fire)	Security/gate
Lake Gardner Improvement Association	Trail maintenance
Office of Community and Development	Input

Committee Responsibilities

The Lakes & Waterways Commission, in addition to creation of the plan, will:

1. Monitor the implementation of the plan's maintenance and use requirements.
2. Evaluate effectiveness of this plan.
3. Renew and revise plan when necessary.

Limits of Plan

This plan applies to Lake Gardner Beach and Powow River Conservation Area.

The plan must be revised and renewed by the Lakes & Waterways Commission every 5 years.

Approval

This plan will be approved by the Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, and the Conservation Commission.

Maintenance Areas:

Beach Area Management

Erosion control and management

The DPW will review and prioritize what work the Lakes and Waterways deems necessary in order to control erosion on the beach. This includes but is not limited to:

- Installation of swales and drains
- Installation of retaining walls
- Landscape changes to better control drainage

Beach Maintenance

Seasonal Raking

DPW will rake the beach at least once per season before the lifeguard season opens, to prepare the beach for recreational use.

The beach area to be raked is defined as the entire sandy area of the waterfront.

Sand Nourishment

DPW will add new sand to the beach at least once per season.

Mowing and Landscape maintenance Schedule

- DPW contractor will, on a regular schedule determined by contractor, perform regular of the grass areas around the beach.
- The DPW contractor will remove all litter before mowing.
- Hedges and tree will be maintained as needed as per tree board.

Trash Removal

DPW will maintain adequate numbers of barrels for trash and recycling.

The Trees, Parks and Cemeteries department will facilitate the emptying of trash and recycling barrels as needed.

Signage

Signs will be maintained and repaired when necessary by DPW.

Bathrooms

Bathrooms will be unlocked when lifeguards are on duty.

Bathrooms will be cleaned each morning when lifeguards are on duty.

Cleaning staff will report any necessary repairs or maintenance of bathroom via the director of Recreation.

The DPW will monitor bathroom facilities and see that they are maintained to a high standard of functionality. All doors, toilets, and sinks must be working properly.

Parking Area and Driveway

Pavement and parking area maintenance is the responsibility of the DPW.

DPW will maintain safe sight lines around driveway for vehicles entering and exiting from High St. DPW will maintain and repair signs as necessary.

Trails Management

Trail Maintenance

Weed Control

LGIA volunteers will perform Poison Ivy control on the trails in accordance with the city's spraying plan. DPW will provide funding for said weed control measures.

Trail Clearing

LGIA volunteers and DPW will clear fallen trees and branches from trails as necessary.

Signage

LGIA volunteers will install and maintain trail signage as necessary with occasional help from DPW. Signs will educate, direct, and inform visitors as needed.

Rules For Public Use

Acceptable Recreational Uses

Beach

The following activities are allowed on the beach:

Swimming: Inside of swim areas when lifeguards are on duty.

Car top boat launching: Outside of swim areas.

Wildlife observation

Fishing

Trails

The following activities are allowed on the trails:

- Pedestrian use
- Biking (non-motorized)
- Snow-shoeing
- Cross country skiing.

Prohibited Uses

The following uses are prohibited in all areas:

- Hunting
- Camping
- Fires
- Fireworks
- Use of motorized vehicles

Boardwalks are for pedestrian use only.

Restricted Uses

Pets

Allowed on trails

Prohibited on beach May 15th through September 15th.

Animal waste must be collected and removed by owner. Town will provide doggie bags near trash.

Watercraft

Launch of car-top boats only. Boats are to be launched outside of the swim area. Boat must be clean, free of weed debris.

Safety

Lifeguards

Parks and Recreation will oversee the staffing, training, and scheduling of lifeguards.

Water Testing

City of Amesbury will organize water quality testing (E. coli) between at dates and locations established by the Department of Public Health.

When E. coli tests fail for the beach area, Board of Health is notified, swimming is prohibited, and DPW or Board of Health posts notices at the beach kiosk.

Security

Police will patrol the parking lot and routinely check for the presence vandalism issues.

Wildlife and Endangered Species Management

Feeding of the wildlife (ducks, geese, etc.) is prohibited.

Improvements, Recommendations and Goals

Improve visibility and sight lines around beach driveway.

Provide bio-bags for handling/removal of animal waste.

Landscape to add:

- More tables, benches
- More grass areas
- More shade trees
- Picnic area
- Rentable pavilion.

Improve Bathrooms.

Public Outreach & Education

The commission is recommending that beach rules and information be available on the city's website as well.

Dam Safety is a issue that could be better communicated to the residents.